

M&O  
Serials  
QL 671  
G84

**THE**  
MONTHLY



VOLUME 11

SAN FRANCISCO, APRIL, 1929

NUMBER 4

**APRIL MEETING:** The next regular meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will be held on Thursday evening, the 11th of April, at 8 o'clock, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Room 19, Second floor, Ferry Building. Mrs. Junea Kelly, First Vice-President of the Association, will deliver the lecture of the evening, treating on Shore Birds.

\* \* \*

**APRIL FIELD TRIP** will be taken on Sunday, April 14th to Lake Merced.

East Bay members should reach San Francisco about 8:30 a. m. Take municipal car marked K, transfer to M car at St. Francis Loop beyond Twin Peaks tunnel, get off at Junipero Serra Boulevard, where party will form at 9:30. Bring luncheon and filled canteens. Time from ferry to meeting place about forty minutes.

The trip will be made down the ravine to the Lake, where the party will divide into two groups, working both sides of the lakes and ending at Sloat Boulevard.

Leaders: Mrs. H. P. Bracelin and Mr. C. W. Lockerbie.

\* \* \*

**MAY FIELD TRIP:** Plans are still under way for the May Field Trip to McCoy's Ranch near Livermore. The date will probably be later than that of our usual outing so that we can visit the ranch as near the height of the nesting season as possible.

Members who have cars and are willing to take the members who have no cars are again requested to send in their names and numbers of persons they can accommodate to C. A. Bryant, Room 1011, 65 Market Street, San Francisco. Members without cars wishing to make the trip please to send their names to the same address.

\* \* \*

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MARCH MEETING:** The regular monthly meeting for March was held on the 14th of the month in the Ferry Building, as usual, President Bert Harwell presiding, Mrs. Bessie Kibbe officiating as Secretary.

Mr. Harwell, as Chairman for the Association of the State Bird Campaign Committee, reported cooperation by the State Federated Women's Clubs and the Native Daughters of the Golden West; that the closing date of the campaign may be postponed beyond June as previously suggested; that he had received information to the effect that the State Legislature may make a move in the matter of the State Bird. The Corresponding Secretary was instructed to ascertain if this be a fact, and if so, to recommend to the San Francisco

delegation that such action be deferred until a full expression of popular choice be secured through the votes now being collected by the Audubon organizations.

The President appointed a committee to gather information on the best available colored pictures of California birds.

The President reported interest in data in bird protective measures and law enforcement, and instructed the Legislative Committee to report thereon.

Field observations were made as follows: Mr. Cain, green winged teal and European widgeon still at Lake Merritt, Allen hummingbird first seen by him 17th Feby.; Mr. Carl Smith, four wandering tattlers at Cliff House, 11th March, American scoter along new Hayward-San Mateo bridge, 10th March, nine marbled godwits at Dumbarton bridge, 3rd March, 300/400 avocets as against 2000/3000 a year ago and the same number of willets as compared with 7000/8000 seen the same time last year, mocking bird wintering at Millbrae; Mrs. Laura Stephens, bittern in Golden Gate Park and purple gallinule still at Lake Merced, 10th of March; Mrs. Kibbe, more frequent observance of short-eared owls, four having been seen along Sears Point Cut-off and also white-tailed kites at San Rafael; Mr. Mailliard, ring-necked ducks and albino ruddy duck in Golden Gate Park; Mr. Harwell reported "two birds that I did not see, singing their 'farewell-to-spring' song", ruby-crowned kinglets in his home garden and hermit thrush singing in his school yard today.

The lecture of the evening was delivered by Mr. Joseph S. Dixon, under the title of "The Economic Status of Some Common Hawks and Owls". With the modest preface that after devoting twenty-nine or thirty years of study to these birds, he "did not know anything about them", Mr. Dixon greatly impressed his listeners with the result of these years of observation and study, during which through prejudice, misinformation and the advance of civilization, the numbers of the beneficial birds, as well as of those really guilty of depredations, are gradually being greatly reduced. The lecture was illustrated with slides showing various birds in their flight, in their nests and the young. Mr. Dixon regretfully mentioned the disastrous result to beneficial birds of the "hawk-killing campaigns" and suggested possible work for the Audubon Association by the dissemination of knowledge to those sportsmen responsible for such work. Mr. Dixon made an earnest plea for every possible protection being given the bald eagle. This magnificent bird, like the condor, with the reduction of its range and food supply, likewise faces extermination. The same fate awaits the osprey and some of our worthy hawks and owls.



**DIRECTORS' MEETING:** Much routine business was disposed of and many new proposed acts and activities were discussed, and when determined upon will be duly reported.

The following were admitted to membership: Mrs. A. H. Morris and Mrs. James Dalziel, San Leandro; Miss Ethel Brodt Wilson, Napa; Miss Alice Jackson, Oakland; Miss Mabel Hibbard, Mrs. E. D. Woodruff and Mr. A. B. Stephens, San Francisco; Miss Lena Harry, Oakland.



### BIRD HIKE VERSUS BIRD ROOM

Bird Hike versus Bird Room is broadly distinctive of the Ornithologist vs. the Aviculturist. One *observes* birds, the other *makes* birds. One records "attributes" as they are, the other constructs them as he desires. One is termed "scientific", the other "domestic". They are, however, strictly complementary and as such have a relevancy of association that should be utilized. The bird man who can sex a canary chick within forty-eight hours of its hatching may not be an anatomist, but he certainly is a very keen observer.

It must be admitted that, owing to the very supremacy secured by type breeding, there are produced specimens so standardized that expert Judges not infrequently are compelled to employ fractional points in adjudging merits. This is an admission that artificial construction can produce and combine modifications, possible improvements, that Scientists would not deem essential to secure "distinctive classification", or registration as a "species". The margin is more liberal than registers "nature" merits, than is employed to secure standard "points". Let us "run down" a show room benching, note the Judge's "pointing", and listen to some of the vocabulary employed. We will find the fancier a not bad companion for the Audubonist, and not an aimless confere for even the Scientist to give heed to and associate with congenially.

Let us take a real, wild bird, e. g., the Bullfinch. The fancier most probably knows nothing of the bird's Latin name, or scientific grouping. However, he has a "standard" for shape, position, color and harmony, that when combined results in a standard bird, that even Mother Nature could pattern to advantage. In shape the bird must be compact and chubby, with neck "bulb" like, short, strong and thick. Head broad, massive, with "cap" (black coloring), clean cut, not pinched or broken at edges. Back and wings well shaped, color bright, clear, wings close carried. These qualities, thus combined, give the bird a "ball" type that is quite characteristic. The color must be "clear"; that means free from cloudiness. This latter is very frequently in evidence, as if Nature were deficient in pigment quality. This to the fancier, is a slum quality that disqualifies, just as a pallid complexion would under-score a human in a medical testing. Or again, the bird may be "lanky" or "slack". This the bird man terms "thinly got up", if more pronounced, rendering the thighs flabby, badly muscled, or as it is termed, "shows trousers". Such a defect would practically debar the bird from permanent merit or even benching. These are "symptoms" which would in no wise hinder their possessor from "Science" honors and classification. Not sixty per cent of freshly caught wild birds would win first "class" in a "standard" point contest. Just why we need not discuss.

Let us "point" a man-made bird, e. g., a Yorkshire canary. Truly an art product and a thing of beauty; a bird of grace and balance. Its erect carriage, its length of leg, its well braced wings and tail, its neat beak, fine head, perfect poise and symmetry—a standard of type, quality and style. The resultant of true study, observation and patience—perhaps its "author" has been a cobbler or a longshoreman; be that as it may, he was an artist and well nigh genius. Listen to him as he "estimates" a group of say a dozen—that one is "flat on head"; that, "hollow necked and sharp at breast"; that has a "barrel body, out of line"; that, "crosses its wings", a serious fault. Just think out why it is so, and you will have a rough test for your own capabilities in art.

Possibly we have demonstrated sufficient to win for the "bird maker" a not unworthy kinship with the ornithologist. He surely is worthy of more than the "passing tribute of a sigh".

Just a brief reference to his vocabulary and metaphors. They also have a meaning of their own. What would the Audubonist understand by "Entrance"? Would he associate it in anywise as descriptive of the part of the skull immediately at the base of the beak, forming the *anatomical* essential in all crest-carrying birds? "Drive"—the forward thrust of the head, essential to secure poise in all birds of position. "Sib-bred", close breeding to secure constancy of "points". "Moons", white spots on variegated plumaged birds. "Bars", differentiation attributes associated with pigmentation of the *primaries*. To the fancier—the man of ideal, the bird is an entity, in which he sees possibilities and capabilities—it is his to transmute these into demonstrated realities.

## THE GULL

MARCH FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, March 17th, to Point Bonita. The weather was cool, with a mild breeze and occasional light showers.

The military road was followed from Sausalito to Fort Baker, where the party divided, some going over the scenic trail that overlooks the ocean, others following the road through the tunnel, meeting at the beach for luncheon. After luncheon the lighthouse was visited.

The outstanding feature of the trip was the large number of gulls along the Sausalito shore feeding on herring spawn. The majority of gulls were immature glaucous-wings and with them a large number of adults of this species, as well as western, herring and California gulls.

In the midst of this great assembly of gulls was one large pure white gull, a glaucous gull, a rare visitor and a new species for nearly everyone's life list. Farther on three more were observed.

An interesting bit of home construction was demonstrated by a pair of bush-tits putting the finishing touches to their nest.

Birds absent from the list on this trip were, Pacific loon, eared grebe, turkey vulture, prairie falcon, murre, mourning dove, kingfisher, plain titmouse, rufous and golden-crowned sparrows.

Birds encountered were: Red-throated loon, western and pied-billed grebes, Farallon double-crested, brandt and Baird pelagic cormorants; common mallard, canvas-back and lesser scaup ducks, white-winged and surf scoters, ruddy duck; sharp-shinned, western red-tailed and desert sparrow hawks; American coot; northern killdeer, Wilson snipe, glaucous, glaucous-winged, northern western, American herring and California gulls; northern burrowing owl; Anna and Allen hummingbirds, Monterey red-shafted flicker; willow downy woodpecker; black phoebe; California horned lark; northern violet-green swallow; northwestern California jay; western raven, western American crow; Marin chestnut-backed chickadee; Pacific Coast bush-tit, ruddy wren-tit; Vigor's Bewick wren, western robin, dwarf hermit thrush, western Mexican bluebird; western blue-gray gnatcatcher, western ruby-crowned kinglet; American pipit; lutescent orange-crowned and Pacific Audubon warblers, San Francisco yellow-throat; western meadowlark, San Francisco red-winged and California Brewer blackbirds; California purple finch, California linnet, northern pine siskin, willow American and green-backed Arkansas goldfinches, San Francisco spotted and brown towhees, Bryant savannah and Fox sparrows. Point Pinos Oregon junco, Nuttall white-crowned and song sparrows. Sixty-two species.

Members in attendance were: Mrs. Bracelin, Kibbe, Mexia, Stephens; Misses Cockefair, Cohen, Hibbard, Payne, Petit. Dr. Card, Messrs. Bryant, deFremery, Lockerbie, Myer, Smith, Stephens. Guests: Mrs. Van Horn; Misses Brew, Burroughs, Frank, Stedmann and thirteen students from the Girls' High School as Miss Petit's guests; Messrs. Bidinger, Bolander, Gerald, Hawkins, Jussel, Smith. Sixteen members and twenty-four guests.

CARL R. SMITH, Historian.

## AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

President.....	Bert Harwell.....	2626 Haste St., Berkeley
Recording Secretary.....	Mrs. Bessie W. Kibbe.....	Room 510, Russ Bldg., San Francisco
Corresponding Secretary.....	C. B. Lastreto.....	260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. E. Stephens.....	1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Meets second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, Second Floor, Room 19.

Address Bulletin correspondence to the Corresponding Secretary.

Subscription to Bulletin alone, 35c per year.

Membership dues, payable January 1, \$3.00 per year.